



*For Release
April 8, 2015*

**STATEMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JD CHESLOFF
ON THE REPORT BY THE SPECIAL PANEL REVIEWING THE MBTA**

(Boston, MA) – The Massachusetts Business Roundtable released the following statement from Executive Director JD Chesloff on the report issued today by the Governor’s special panel analyzing the operations, governance and finances of the MBTA:

“The Roundtable strongly supports the key findings and recommendations for major reforms announced today by the Governor’s special panel reviewing the MBTA. Most of the reforms closely correlate to principles adopted by Roundtable business leaders that call for more effective resource management, greater performance measurement, more efficient service delivery, sound long-term planning, as well as increased transparency and accountability.

“Roundtable business leaders recognize the enormous importance of the MBTA as a key driver of the state’s economic competitiveness. Businesses of all sizes routinely adopt strategic plans that include aggressive performance metrics and accountability measures. It is clear there is significant work ahead for the MBTA to restore credibility and trust among riders and taxpayers across the state. For that purpose, we support recommendations to create a new short-term fiscal and management control board, maximize the MBTA’s own source revenues, assess the most pressing capital needs and make those investments, and to install a firewall between the operating and capital budgets while developing detailed one- and five-year plans for each. These are sound business practices that should lead to an improved customer experience and more effective management of the MBTA.

“Investing in the state’s transportation infrastructure is essential for the Commonwealth to continue as a global hub with a vibrant and growing economy. The Roundtable has vigorously supported revenues to support the infrastructure necessary to transport our talented workforce and to move goods and services. Given the enormous management, operations and procurement challenges at the MBTA, the Roundtable urges swift action on the recommended reforms and appropriate investments to get the MBTA back on track to serve the citizens of the Commonwealth.”

About the Massachusetts Business Roundtable

The Massachusetts Business Roundtable is a member-driven, non-profit public policy organization comprised of top executives representing many of the state's largest employers, which employ 250,000 people in a wide array of industry sectors across the state. The Roundtable’s mission is to strengthen the state's long-term economic vitality with the goal to make Massachusetts a highly desirable place to do business. To learn more about the organization's programs, policy work and its competitiveness agenda, please visit www.maroundtable.com.

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